The Central Government is facilitating to resolve the inter State issues between party States whenever approached by the Party States. For Polavaram Project, the Minister of Water Resources has called a meeting of Chief Ministers of party States on 26th September, 2006.

Flood control projects in Kerala

1621. SHRI K. E. ISMAIL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala had submitted 23 schemes for flood control in Kerala at an estimated cost of Rs. 47.33 crores to the Centre as suggested by the Ministry in 2003;

(b) whether the scheme in Karamana River from Kuntamankadavu has been accepted by the Expenditure and Finance Committee of the Centre;

(c) whether the Centre has informed Kerala later that they are not recommending the scheme to the Planning Commission;

(d) what is the reason for this contradictory decisions; and

(e) whether the original scheme of Rs. 47.33 crore is still under consideration and by when, a decision will be taken on this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ) : (a) to (e) As per the information furnished by Central Water Commission (CWC), 20 schemes amounting to Rs. 32.79 crore were received by CWC from Government of Kerala in February, 2000 for inclusion in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Ministry of Water Resources. The schemes were technically examined in CWC and it was observed that 19 schemes were each costing iess that Rs. 3.00 crores. Hence, as per the instructions of Planning Commission, these schemes were not found eligible for inclusion in Xth Plan and the scheme namely "Protection of both banks of Karamana river" amounting to Rs. 5.80 crore was recommended to Planning Commission for its inclusion in CSS for Xth Plan which was cleared by the Standing Finance Commission (SFC) along with the schemes of other States. The Planning Commission, however, in its internal meeting on 08.03.2004 did not recommend the scheme for approval of Full Planning Commission to avoid proliferation of new CSS in Xth Plan. This was informed by CWC

to the State Government of Kerala in the month of April, 2004. The CWC also informed *vide* letter dated 31.01.2005 that the schemes received from Government of Kerala may be treated as returned back.

Relaxation in norms for AIBP

1622. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had constituted a Group of Ministers to review the proposal for relaxing norms for the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) for speedier completion of water projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government wants to simplify the procedure and drop norms which were not working; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, A Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted on 14th July, 2006.

(c) and (d) Views expressed in the meeting of the State Irrigation Minister in November, 2005 and Secretaries of State Irrigation Department in October, 2005 on relaxation of norms of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) have been taken into consideration for finalization of further relaxation of AIBP criteria. AIBP has been conceptualized to assist the States to complete ongoing irrigation projects and create the irrigation potential in the specified time-frame. The norms of AIBP are revised from time to time and further relaxation would be considered by the GoM.

Water crises in Rajasthan

1623. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of such reservoirs of Rajasthan, having less than average quantity of water facing water crisis;